




REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 17-18 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Claim 1 was rejected because the feature of "said polarization rotating element" did not have an antecedent basis. Claim 1 has been amended to recite, "said transmissive polarization rotating element", which has an antecedent basis. 

Claims 17-18 were rejected as being indefinite because it was confusing and unclear to the Examiner what was meant by the claimed feature of "a first linear polarization axis". Claim 17 has been amended to delete the reference to a "first linear polarization axis" to a "polarization axis". This amendment should clear up the confusion. 

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, 12-16, and 19-24 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Sharp. Sharp, does not actually disclose the display device in the way described by the examiner in section 6 of the office action. The examiner indicated that Figure 13 of Sharp supposedly discloses "a direct view polarized display panel (active matrix FLC)" and other elements. This is not correct. The active matrix FLC is merely a variable retarder, and not a polarized display panel in the context of the present patent application (e.g., it is an FLC, not an FLCD). In other words, the active matrix FLC does not provide polarized display functionality on its own. It requires the additional polarizers, such as those shown in Figure 13 of Sharp, to function as a polarized display. As taught, the polarization rotating elements taught by Sharp are therefore inside of any polarized display panel construed from Sharp. 

The specification and amended claims refer to polarization rotating element(s) added to the outside of a polarized display panel, not inside of one. This is supported and shown in the specification at: Page 9, lines 25-29 describes a polarized display device comprising a display panel 102 and a rear element 104 having a linear polarization axis 106 substantially aligned with the

pass axis 108 of the rear polarizer (not shown) disposed on the back surface of display panel 102;

Page 10, lines 24-28 describe clearly an embodiment where the polarization rotating element is situated between the rear element 204 and the rear polarizer (not shown) on the back surface of the display panel 202;

Page 12, lines 8-13 gives several means by which the polarization rotation element is held in place between rear element 204 and the rear polarizer, further showing that the rear polarizer is present and is distinct from the rear element;

Page 12, lines 15-18; Page 13, lines 9-21; Page 13, line 34 through page 14, line 15; and Page 14, lines 28-31 all provide similar context for the claims.

Page 18, lines 22-25 describe use of a normally white twisted nematic display panel. One skilled in the art would recognize that for the display panel to be categorized as normally white (as opposed to, for example, normally black), it must include both front and rear polarizers. The reference goes on to explicitly mention both a rear element and a rear polarizer.

Page 19, lines 12-17 introduces the adjective "polarized" to describe the display panel 902, the operation of which "is as described previously" in functionally-similar elements throughout the separate views. Further, while the term "display panel" is used repeatedly throughout the specification, the term "polarized display panel" is used in the claims as it is more specifically descriptive of the display panels in the specification, all of which include polarizers in order to modulate light and provide display functionality.

Thus, the use of the word "proximate" in the claims. However, to further emphasize this feature, the independent claims (claims 1, 17, 19, and 23) have been amended to include the phrase that the "transmissive polarization rotating

element is proximate to an exterior surface of the polarized display panel". This feature was in claim 14, therefore, claim 14 has been canceled by the inclusion of the addition of the element to the independent claims. In addition, amendments have been made to the dependent claims to make them consistent with the independent claims and also to correct some grammatical errors.

One skilled in the art would recognize that the difference (inside or outside the polarizer) is significant, and that this is not just a rearrangement of elements having no impact on operation. Further, Sharp does not discuss or suggest placing a polarizing film between the polarization rotating element(s) and the FLC variable retarder, and in fact teaches away from this feature as this configuration would eliminate the achromaticity which is the basis for Sharp's invention.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sharp, et al. This is a dependent claim, and due to the allowability of the independent claim, this claim is allowable.

Claims 9, 11, and 17-18 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sharp, et al., in view of Larson. As previously discussed, Sharp, et al., teaches away from placing the polarization rotating element(s) on the outside of a polarized display panel, thus making the current claims significantly different than the Sharp, et al., disclosure. Larson has been extensively discussed in the previous responses filed in this matter. These references individually or in combination fail to teach or imply this unique feature, making the currently amended claims allowable.

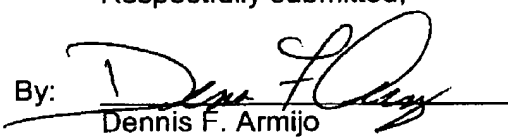
Having responded to each and every objection and rejection raised by the Examiner, it is believed that the patent application is now in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or suggestions for expediting an allowance in this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned collect.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application to Deposit Account No. 01-2335.

Respectfully submitted,

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